

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: September 18, 2006

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on September 8, 2006

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Oil Well Release, Portage, Ohio

On August 23, 2006, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brad Stimple responded to an oil well release to a surface water body located near Portage, Ohio. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Ohio DNR) Division of Mineral Resources requested the assistance of U.S. EPA. Ohio DNR was informed by the property owner that an obsolete well, existing in a corn field, had been damaged and oil was released. Ohio DNR and one of their well plugging contractors responded and began the cleanup work. It was determined that a surface and subsurface release had occurred. Ohio DNR oversees an oil and gas well plugging program but has limited funds for cleanup. When it became apparent that Ohio DNR funding for the cleanup would soon be exhausted, they contacted U.S. EPA. On August 24, 2006, OSC Brad Stimple directed a Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) contractor to take over the cleanup and also to subcontract a qualified well plugging firm to abandon the suspect well. Primary cleanup work was completed by weeks end. U.S. EPA will monitor the site and remove oil and replace boom as necessary for some weeks.

Contact: Brad Stimple (440-250-1717)

**PRP Emergency Response and Removal Completion, Universal Form
Clamp Fire Site, Bellwood, Illinois**

On August 31, 2006, a potentially responsible party (PRP) emergency and removal action was completed at the Universal Form Clamp Facility (Universal) in Bellwood, Cook County, Illinois. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michael Harris and the WESTON Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor performed oversight of the PRP removal. Following the emergency response and removal activities, threats to human health and the environment due to the presence of unstable hazardous containers located in the chemical rooms of the Universal facility have been mitigated. Containers that were impacted by the fire were removed from the facility and shipped off site for disposal. In addition, impacted tanks and firefighting water generated during the fire was disposed of off site. The polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil and concrete surfaces in the transformer substation was removed and/or decontaminated and shipped off site for disposal.

Contact: Michael Harris (312-886-0760)

**Settlement, Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, Inc., Plant 2,
Ashtabula, Ohio**

On September 6, 2006, the Agency filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order resolving an Administrative Complaint that was filed on May 9, 2006, against Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, Inc., Ashtabula, Ohio. The penalty in the Administrative Complaint was \$181,350. The Administrative Complaint alleged violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103 and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 304. On January 24, 2006, at 11:47 p.m., Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, Inc., Ashtabula, Ohio, had an 88-pound release of chlorine. Chlorine is a hazardous substance under CERCLA and an extremely hazardous substance under EPCRA with a reportable quantity (RQ) of 10 pounds. This release was about 8.8 times the RQ. The person in charge of the facility notified the National Response Center (NRC) on January 25, 2006, at 1:58 a.m. or about 2 hours and 11 minutes after the release. The owner/operator notified the State Emergency Response Commission on January 25, 2006, at 2:04 a.m. or 2 hours and 17 minutes after the release. The owner/operator of the facility notified the Local Emergency Planning Committee on January 25, 2006, at 2:10 a.m. or about 2 hours and 23 minutes after the release. As part of the settlement, Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, Inc., will pay a cash penalty of \$74,568.

The payment includes \$31,434 to the Superfund Account and \$43,134 to the general treasury. Millennium Inorganic Chemicals, Inc. will have 30 days to pay the penalty.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Operable Unit 3 ROD Amendment, New Brighton/Arden Hills/TCAAP (US ARMY) Superfund Site, New Brighton, Minnesota

On August 11, 2006, the U.S. EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment for the Operable Unit 3 remedy at the New Brighton/Arden Hills/TCAAP (TCAAP) Superfund Site. Operable Unit 3 (OU3) has historically included that portion of volatile organic compound (VOC)-contaminated groundwater which migrated past the boundary of the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP), known as the South Plume. The OU3 remedy included the installation of a 1000-gallon per minute extraction well at the leading edge of the South Plume to prevent the plume from migrating any further. The extracted water was treated for VOCs, as well as conventional municipal water supply requirements, before entering the city's distribution system as potable water.

Over the last seven years, the South Plume has receded to the point where the extraction well no longer withdraws contaminated groundwater and provides no benefit. Tetrachloroethylene (TCE) concentrations have been non-detected for the past five years. The South Plume appears to be "wasting" and the retreating plume is expected to reach drinking water Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in a reasonable time frame through natural attenuation. The ROD Amendment, therefore, removes the extraction well as a component of the remedy and incorporates monitored natural attenuation as the remedy for the residual portion of the plume, along with continued groundwater monitoring and institutional controls restricting the installation of private wells in the vicinity of the residual plume.

Contact: Tom Barounis (312-353-5577)

Preliminary Close Out Report, Interstate Pollution Control, Inc., Superfund Site, Rockford, Illinois

On September 6, 2006, a Preliminary Close-Out Report (PCOR) was signed for the Interstate Pollution Control (IPC) Superfund site, Rockford, Illinois. The selected site remedy includes institutional controls and engineered barrier with monitored natural attenuation of groundwater with soil vapor extraction (SVE) as a contingent remedial option. The decision to implement

the SVE component will be made after the first statutorily required five-year review, following implementation of the remedy and demonstration period to determine if there is a continuing release of site contaminants to groundwater. The decision will be based primarily on statistical analysis of groundwater trends at the site. Pre-final construction inspections were conducted by the U.S. EPA and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) on June 28, 2006, July 19, 2006, and August 23, 2006, to ensure that the remedy was constructed in accordance with the remedial design and remedial action plans and specifications. The engineered barrier was complete; the site was fenced; and, 'No Trespassing' signs were placed at various points along the fence.

Contact: Howard Caine (312-353-9685)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Kitchi Gummi Guardian Full-Scale Area Exercise, Duluth, Minnesota

On August 29-31, 2006, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster attended the Western Lake Superior Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP) and National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) full-scale exercises held in Duluth, Minnesota. Over 75 personnel from a multitude of Federal, State, and local law enforcement and pollution response agencies participated in the multi-day event. The AMSTEP exercise scenario involved several simultaneous security threats within the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. These simulated events included a potential improvised explosive device (IED) attached to the hull of a freighter, a protest at an oil refinery, and a stolen tanker truck full of gasoline. The PREP scenario involved a simulated train derailment which resulted in vegetable and diesel fuel spills in a marshy area adjacent to Lake Superior. Local response contractors deployed spill collection boom into the waterway, and local media covered the exercise events. An after-action report will be generated, and the Western Lake Superior Area Maritime Security and Area Contingency Plans will be updated as appropriate.

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